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I/WE CLAIM:

1. A method for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis in a mammal by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in vivo in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.
4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form antibody-antigen conjugates prior to administering said conjugates to said mammal.
5. The method as claimed in claim 3 or 4 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.
6. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.
7. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said antibody is monoclonal or polyclonal.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.
9. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.
10. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said endogenous soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.
11. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.
12. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody or monoclonal antibody.
13. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human or a non-human mammal.
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered intravenously, interperitoneally, intradermally, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, orally or rectally.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered for a time and under conditions sufficient to inhibit platelet clearance.
16. The method of claim 1 for treating an immune thrombocytopenia.
17. The method of claim 1 for treating inflammatory arthritis.

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18. A method of inhibiting platelet clearance in a patient in need thereof by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to the patient a composition comprising a therapeutic amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in said patient, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the therapeutic amount of the at least one antibody ranges from about 0.1µg to about 1g per kg of body weight per day.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered for a time sufficient to therapeutically increase and maintain platelet cell counts.
21. The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.
22. The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.
23. The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates prior to administering said conjugates to said mammal.
24. The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is ovalbumin.

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25. The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.
26. The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said antibody is monoclonal or polyclonal.
27. The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.
28. The method as claimed in claim 27 wherein said soluble antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.
29. The method as claimed in claim 27 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.
30. The method as claimed in 27 wherein said soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.
31. The method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said mammal is a human or a non-human mammal.
32. The method according to claim 18, wherein said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered intravenously, interperitoneally, intradermally, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, orally or rectally.
33. A pharmaceutical composition for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, said composition comprising an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen

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- thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein administration of said composition results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen in vivo in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.
34. The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein said antibody and/or soluble antigen is capable of inhibiting platelet clearance.
35. The composition as claimed in claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.
36. The composition as claimed in claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble antigen for administration to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.
37. The composition as claimed in claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody as antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.
38. The composition as claimed in claim 36 or 37 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.
39. The composition as claimed in claim 35 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and said composition comprises an effective amount of said soluble antigen.
40. The composition as claimed in claim 35 wherein said antibody is monoclonal or polyclonal.

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41. The composition as claimed in claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.
42. The composition as claimed in claim 41 wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of said antibody.
43. The composition as claimed in claim 41 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.
44. The composition as claimed in 41 wherein said composition comprises said endogenous soluble antigen obtained from said mammal and said antibody as antibody-antigen conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.
45. The composition as claimed in claim 33 wherein said mammal is a human or a non-human mammal.
46. The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein said composition is formulated for administration intravenously, intradermally, interperitoneally, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, orally or rectally.
47. The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is capable of inhibiting platelet clearance.
48. Use of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis by means of an in vivo antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, wherein said use results in the selective binding of said

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antibody with said soluble antigen in vivo in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble in vivo.

49. The use of claim 48 wherein said medicament comprises a therapeutic amount of said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen effective to slow or inhibit platelet clearance when administered to a patient in need thereof.
50. The use of claim 49 wherein the therapeutic amount of said at least one antibody is from about 0.1µg to about 1g per kg of body weight per day.
51. The use as claimed in claim 48 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.
52. The use as claimed in claim 51 wherein said soluble foreign antigen is for administration to said mammal prior to or following administration of said antibody.
53. The use as claimed in claim 51 wherein said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates for manufacturing the medicament.
54. The use as claimed in claim 52 or 53 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.
55. The use as claimed in claim 51 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said foreign soluble antigen and said foreign soluble antigen is for manufacturing the medicament.
56. The use as claimed in claim 51 wherein said antibody is monoclonal or polyclonal.

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57. The use as claimed in claim 48 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.
58. The use as claimed in claim 57 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.
59. The use as claimed in claim 57 wherein said antibody is used for manufacturing the medicament.
60. The use as claimed in claim 57 wherein said endogenous soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being used for manufacturing the medicament.
61. The use as claimed in claim 48 wherein said mammal is a human or a non-human mammal.
62. The use as claimed in claim 48 wherein said at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is formulated for administration intravenously, interperitoneally, intradermally, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, orally or rectally.

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